GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
DEFENCE
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:909
ANSWERED ON:22.11.2001
CBI INQUIRIES AGAINST DEFENCE OFFICIALS
PRABHUNATH SINGH

Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) the details of Preliminary Enquiry (PE) registered by the CBI against Defence officials over graft charges as reported in the Indian Express dated October 26, 2001;

(b) the present status of these Pes and the findings of the CBI in each case;

(c) whether the Ministry is not cooperating with the CBI in getting documents stamped as classified/obtaining permission from the Ministry of Home;

(d) if so, the details of steps initiated by the Ministry to end corruption in defence deals/purchases; and

(e) the details of results achieved in this direction?

Answer

MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES)
(a) & (b): The CBI have registered a Preliminary Enquiry on 13.9.2001 against a Controller of Defence Accounts for having accepted favour in the form of payment for Air tickets for travel of self and family members from Delhi to Patna and back from a supplier of spare parts to the Indian Air Force. The CBI are presently inquiring into the matter.

(c) The CBI is getting full cooperation from the Ministry of Defence.

(d) & (e): Besides others following important steps have been taken to bring transparency in Defence purchases:

(i) With a view to ensuring high levels of transparency in defence purchases, Government have issued orders, in consultation with the CVC/C&AG, for mandatory and time-bound scrutiny of all major procurements/purchase decisions, involving cost of above Rs. 75 crores, by the C&AG and where necessary, by the CVC.

(ii) Defence Procurement Board consisting of senior officers of the Ministry, three services and the Defence Finance Wing has been set up to handle major Defence purchases in a professional, transparent and cost effective manner.

(iii) In order to make the Defence procurement procedures fully transparent and to ensure probity of the highest order, the Government has after careful consideration of the recommendation of the CVC has issued instructions for the involvement of authorized representatives/agents in Defence purchases. This would enhance transparency level and provide the Service HQrs., additional information about latest advances in sophisticated technology.